

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for making a fibrous nonwoven web, said apparatus comprising:
- a) an extrusion die;
- 5 b) a first fluid supply in cooperation with said extrusion die and a second fluid supply in cooperation with said extrusion die;
- c) a plurality of first extrusion capillaries and a plurality of second extrusion capillaries; and
- d) first counterbores allowing fluid communication between said first extrusion
- 10 capillaries and said first fluid supply, and second counterbores allowing fluid communication between said second extrusion capillaries and said second fluid supply;
- wherein each of said first counterbores has at least two of said first extrusion capillaries extending therefrom and each of said second counterbores has at least one of
- 15 said second extrusion capillaries extending therefrom.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein each of said first counterbores has at least three of said first extrusion capillaries extending therefrom.
- 20 3. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein each of said second counterbores has at least two of said second extrusion capillaries extending therefrom.
4. The apparatus of Claim 1 comprising between 2 and about 20 counterbores per inch of said die.

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5. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a third fluid supply, wherein said second counterbores allow fluid communication between said second extrusion capillaries and said third fluid supply.

5 6. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a third fluid supply, a plurality of third extrusion capillaries and comprising third counterbores allowing fluid communication between said third extrusion capillaries and said third fluid supply.

7. A method for forming a nonwoven web, said method comprising:

- 10 a) providing an extrusion die in communication with a first fluid supply and a second fluid supply, said die comprising a first plurality and a second plurality of extrusion capillaries, said die further comprising first counterbores allowing fluid communication between said first extrusion capillaries and said first fluid supply, and second counterbores allowing fluid communication between said second
- 15 extrusion capillaries and said second fluid supply, wherein each of said first counterbores has at least two of said first extrusion capillaries extending therefrom and each of said second counterbores has at least one of said second extrusion capillaries extending therefrom;
- b) providing to said extrusion die a first fluidized polymer and a second fluid;
- 20 c) conveying said first fluidized polymer through said first fluid supply, said first counterbores and said first extrusion capillaries to extrude a first plurality of fibers; and
- d) conveying said second fluid through said second fluid supply, said second counterbores and said second extrusion capillaries.

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8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said second fluid comprises a fiber treatment composition.

9. The method of Claim 7 wherein said second fluid comprises a fluidized polymer.

10. The method of Claim 7 wherein each of said second counterbores has at least two
5 of said second extrusion capillaries extending therefrom.

11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said first fluidized polymer is substantially the same
as said second fluidized polymer and wherein said first fluidized polymer is provided to
said extrusion die at a flow rate substantially greater than said second fluidized polymer.
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12. The method of Claim 7 wherein each of said first counterbores has at least three of
said first extrusion capillaries extending therefrom and each of said second counterbores
has at least three of said second extrusion capillaries extending therefrom.

13. The method of Claim 7 wherein said counterbores are provided at between about 2
15 and about 20 counterbores per inch.

14. The method of Claim 7 further comprising providing a third fluid supply, third
extrusion capillaries and third counterbores allowing fluid communication between said
20 third extrusion capillaries and said third fluid supply, providing a third fluid, conveying said
third fluid through said third fluid supply, said third counterbores and said third extrusion
capillaries.

15. The method of Claim 7 further comprising providing a third fluid supply, wherein said
25 second counterbores allow fluid communication between said second extrusion capillaries
and said third fluid supply, and wherein said second fluid comprises a fluidized polymer
and said third fluid comprises a fluidized polymer.

16. A nonwoven web produced in accordance with the method of Claim 7.

17. The nonwoven web of Claim 16 comprising alternating first and second regions, said
5 first region comprising by majority a first fiber type and said second region comprising by
majority a second fiber type.

18. A nonwoven web produced in accordance with the method of Claim 8.

10 19. A nonwoven web produced in accordance with the method of Claim 12.

20. A nonwoven web produced in accordance with the method of Claim 15.